Committed to young people and our community

Annual Report 2010
Glenda Fisher presides over the Mentors for our Students certificate presentation ceremony.
Chair’s report

“Out of all the change thrust upon us in 2009 much good has come, starting with a name change and launch of YouthNow in December 2009. This re-badged organisation will endeavour to maintain the high standard of delivery of services to youth that the former LCP was known for.” (Annual Report presented March 2010).

And so I commence this years annual report from where I left off in March 2010. A year which saw exciting times and great successes but also the significant challenges involved with growing a new business. Under the outstanding leadership of our Executive Officer, Ms Colleen Bergin, we are slowly but surely gaining a strong position in the Western Region providing exemplary service and outcomes for our young people.

The staff has worked tirelessly to build positive, pro-active and productive relationships with industry and schools in the Western Region and provided exemplary educational programs and services. Our Board though small, has endeavoured to give strategic support and leadership to both our Executive Officer Colleen and our staff.

YouthNow is very focused on developing and maintaining partnerships with community organisations and businesses in the Western Region. We are fortunate to be supported in our many activities both in kind and financially by these partners and we would like to give recognition to SWIM Communications, Sunshine Plaza, Bendigo Bank and Victoria Police, and thank them for their support. We also provide active support to many local networks such as: Women in Business Network; Sunshine Business Association; Careers Teachers Networks; Maribyrnong Moonee Valley LLEN; Brimbank Melton LLEN; Wynbay LLEN and the Melton Community Learning Board.

Education & Training is our major focus and to that end our staff have conducted the: Western Metropolitan Region Industry & Education Awards; Sunshine Community Mentoring Program; Work Place Learning Coordinator Program; CALM work readiness skills program and the Vocational Preparation Program for Catholic Schools.

Careers Counselling has been another successful addition to the YouthNow services with many students and adults able to access quality pathways support from our staff. A number of useful resources which support workplacement programs have been developed for schools such as log books for Structured Workplace Learning. These are available for a wide range of industries and able to be downloaded from our website.

Highlights of the year

It was with great pride that I was present to see our staff receive the Star Newsgroup 2010 Women in Business Award for Business Services at the Moonee Valley Racecourse function rooms on August 7th. It was with regret that I wasn’t present to see our young YouthNow trainee Samantha Vella be awarded Apprentice of the Year - Melton Business Awards on Friday the 29th of April at Witchmount. Sammy has had an amazing journey from unsure school student to trainee extraordinaire with YouthNow. She is continuing her traineeship and undertaking the Diploma of Business Studies.

In closing I would like to thank the Board Members who have worked hard and supported me over the past twelve months. The business and marketing advice of Alan Neil, Stephen Grant, Joe Manariti and Shirley Romanyk has been invaluable as has the education advice from Zina Micelli. We are sorry to lose the services of Stephen Grant as Treasurer and Shirley Romanyk (Human Resources Advisor) and I would like to thank them and acknowledge their wonderful contribution to our organization.

I thank you all for your support during 2010 and trust you will continue to support us as we endeavour to grow and provide a much needed suite of services to young people in the coming years in the Western Region.

Mrs Glenda Fisher, Chairman YouthNow
Supporting Youth

Workplace Learning
This service is delivered through the Workplace Learning Coordinator program throughout the six local government areas in Melbourne’s west. The program provides access to quality workplace opportunities to all 15-19 year olds in education and training. This program is funded by DEECD and commenced in July 2010. By the end of the year 171 students were directly placed by YouthNow.

Careers
Young people not in school or employment were able to access free quality careers assistance and transition support to education and training through the Career on Track program. 480 hours of career counselling was delivered and the program directly assisted 142 youth. The CoT program was funded by DEECD.

YouthNow forged effective partnerships with Job Services Australia to identify young people requiring pathway assistance commenced a career counselling support service for young job seekers.

Youth Support
Youth workers at YouthNow provided case management support for young people 15-19 not in school to obtain sustainable outcomes. The 1300 West Youth Number provided a referral service to youth keen to find help with a variety of issues. 270 referrals were made.

Up to 52 Pacific Islander Youth were supported via a number of activities: Pizza Nights, Backyard Rugby and a forum with Victoria Police, access to work experience opportunities and advice on training and education.

Workshops
Work readiness skills supported students in their workplacements. These were delivered to students from the CALM program from Melton, Vocational Preparation Program students from Catholic schools and young people in the Brotherhood of St Laurence program.
Young people

650
Employer Champion James Stepien of VNR Group shares his experiences of students in the workplace.
Engaging Business

Employer Champion Awards
YouthNow, with Moonee Valley Council, organised the inaugural Employer Champion Awards for 2010. Schools from the Western Region nominated over 70 employers. The event saw 27 businesses recognised for their outstanding support of workplace learning.

Networking activities

Sponsorship
For the past 10 years YouthNow has sourced employer sponsorship for the Western Region Industry and Education awards. In 2011 26 businesses / employers provided the prizes for the 40 separate awards.

Active Workplacement Opportunities
In 2010 the YouthNow database listed over 420 employers who are committed to providing workplace opportunities to students.

Opportunities are sourced via an extensive visitation and contact program by Project Officers. Each Project Officer contacts up to 50 businesses a week and the recruitment of new employers has exceeded expectations.

School activities
Registered users of the YouthNow database can access the “adopt a school” list of employers who have registered interest in supporting career and transition activities with schools. These include being a guest speaker, providing site visits, mentoring or attending expos.
Supporting Parents & Families

Western English Language School
Parent Information Sessions

School Focused Youth Services funding assisted in the delivery of workshops to over 100 parents and family members of the Western English Language school.

Parents from Primary and Secondary levels were assisted in their understanding of the Victorian Education system. The talks were also delivered to the senior students preparing for their transition to Secondary School or TAFE.

Melton Primary Parents Workshop

Common Solutions Funding, from Melton Shire Council assisted YouthNow to deliver a workshop to 12 parents of Primary age students. The workshop provided information on how to select the best secondary school for your child.

Melton Careers Expo

At the Melton Careers Expo YouthNow representatives spoke to over 30 parents and provided resources to support career pathway planning.

Catholic Regional College:
St Albans Parent Workshop

A group of 30 parents and children were supported at the college with Career and Transition information. Parents and students had access to computers to identify various pathways. The evening provided a highly valued opportunity for parents to ask questions and access the information they need.

Referral

Supported 28 families through the 1300 WestYouth referral service.

YouthNow aims to assist parents and families to support the transitions of their young people

Maria Cox leads the WELs parents in their transition support workshop.
Parents

160
Linking Community & Schools

YOUTHNOW aims to develop dynamic partnerships between industry, education & community

Mentoring

Sunshine
Sunshine Plaza Centre Management, Sunshine Harvester PS, Sunshine Secondary College, YouthNow and volunteer mentors worked together to build the Investigation & Discovery Learning Centre at Sunshine Harvester PS. The project involved 3 mentors and has supported refugee and socially disadvantaged students at the primary school, while developing the life skills of the secondary college students who worked on the project.

Laverton
Following on from the 2009 Mentors for our students program 7 Mentors worked with students at Laverton P-12 college. This program was funded by the school.

Toyota
A unique program for the west utilising the skills and experience of existing and retired employees at Toyota to mentor local youth was developed. YouthNow will coordinate the program in 2011 in partnership with Toyota and Harvester Technical College.

Schools

Skill development
Training in the use of the on-line workplace program was conducted with approx 35 teachers.

Western Metropolitan Region VCAL Induction Day - approx 25 teachers were provided with work related skills resources.

Youth Expos: Wyndham and Maribyrnong - approx 20 teachers and Youth Workers introduced to the Workplace Learning Coordinator program.

Teachers: —approx 175 teachers and related staff kept up to date with fortnightly Workplace Learning bulletins.

YouthNow mentor Franz Schellmann with Teacher and mentees from Sunshine Secondary College and their Investigation and Discovery house.
Sunshine Plaza Centre Manager, Glenn Jones, presents a cheque to YouthNow to start the Sunshine Community mentoring program.
## YOUTHNOW INCORPORATED

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2010

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<tr>
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<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Trade and other receivables</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>NON - CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Property, plant &amp; equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NON - CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>425,085</strong></td>
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### MEMBERS’ FUNDS

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<td>Opening surplus</td>
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<td>Accumulated surplus/(deficit)</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL MEMBERS’ FUNDS</strong></td>
<td><strong>334,147</strong></td>
<td><strong>425,085</strong></td>
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Audit Report prepared by TH Marshall Taxation Pty. Ltd.
2010 Board Members

Chair Person: Glenda Fisher
Deputy Chair: Alan Neild
Treasurer: Stephen Grant

Board Member: Joe Manariti
Board Member: Zina Miceli
Board Member: Shirley Romanyk

Catholic Education Office
Agfab Engineering
Grant Financial Consulting
Swim Communications
DEECD
Claytons Group

The board is pleased to welcome Craig Rowley, from LeadWest, and Irena Kaluski, NAB Consultant, to the YouthNow Board in April 2011 and look forward to their specialist contribution to our organization.